



71

Rural District of Bridgwater



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1967

BRIDGWATER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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Vice-Chairman:

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DR. M. D. THOMSON.

DR. W. R. THROWER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1967.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.).

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B. B.S.


Chief Public Health Inspector:

F. A. MAILE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D. J. EMM, M.A.P.H.I.

D. K. LANE, M.A.P.H.I.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR 1967.

Tel: BRIDGWATER: 4147/8.

Health Department,
22 King Square,
BRIDGWATER.

July, 1968.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1967. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

The health of the Rural District has been good during the year. Very few infectious diseases other than measles were notified and the vital statistics continue to be satisfactory, and to compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council, and other Chief Officers, and the Staff of the Health Department, for the help and co-operation which I have received during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	86,000
Population (Census 1961)	21,985
Population (Registrar General's estimate 1967)	24,900
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1967.	8,250
Rateable value on 31st December, 1967.	£626,335
Sum represented by 1d. rate on 31st December, 1967.	£2461.11.1d.

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1967.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	204	191	395
Illegitimate	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>30</u>
	<u>214</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>425</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			17.06
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			7.05
Stillbirths			7
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births			16.20
Total live and still births			432
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total			16.47
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			11.76
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)			11.76
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			27.77
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births			Nil
<u>Deaths.</u>			
Total number of deaths			234
Death rate per 1,000 population			9.36

Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 425 births (214 boys and 211 girls) in the Rural District during 1967 being 26 births less than in 1966. Of these births 30 were illegitimate. This is 7.05% of the total live births, as compared with 7.09% in 1966.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a comparability factor for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Rural District adjusted in this manner is increased from 17.06% to 17.10% per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 17.2%.

Birth rates for the Rural District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Crude Birth Rate	20.10	19.81	17.64	18.34	17.06
Standardised Birth Rate	21.10	20.80	18.54	19.25	17.10
England and Wales	18.2	18.4	18.0	17.7	17.2

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Rural District during 1967 was 128. Of these 6 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand 112 deaths of Rural District residents registered outside the District, (67 at Taunton hospitals and 45 elsewhere). The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 234 (124 males and 110 females). This was 8 less than the previous year and gave a crude death rate of 9.36% per 1,000 of the population.

The crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General therefore supplies a comparability factor and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with that for the country as a whole, or for any other local area similarly adjusted. The adjusted death rate so obtained was 9.1% per 1,000 of the population, and this is compared with 11.2% for England and Wales.

Death rates for the District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Crude Death Rate	12.80	11.44	9.21	9.84	9.36
Standardised Death Rate	12.67	11.32	9.02	9.64	9.17
England and Wales	12.2	11.3	11.5	11.7	11.2

Of 234 deaths, 175 occurred in people over the age of 65 years, 52 occurred in people in the productive age groups 15 to 64 years, and the following table gives the details of deaths in this age group:-

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Malignant neoplasm of lung bronchus				1	3	4
Malignant neoplasm of breast				3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm of uterus				1	1	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				1	5	6
Vascular lesions of the nervous system				1	3	4
Coronary disease and angina				1	12	13
Hypertension with heart disease					1	1
Other heart disease					3	3
Other circulatory disease			1	1	2	4
Pneumonia					1	1
Bronchitis					3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		1	1		1	3
Motor vehicle accidents					1	1
All other accidents	1					1
Nephritis and Nephrosis			1			1
Suicide					1	1
Totals:	1	1	3	9	38	52

Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths from cancer was 48 (males 21 and females 27). They constitute 20.51% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 48 cases:-

	Number of Deaths			1966
	Male	Female	Total 1967	
Stomach	4	3	7	8
Lung, bronchus	9	2	11	8
Breast	-	6	6	6
Uterus	-	3	3	3
Other and unspecified organs	8	13	21	19
Total	21	27	48	44

Cancer of the Uterus.

In previous reports reference was made to the need to introduce a scheme to provide for the examination of route tests (cervical smears) with a view to preventing cancer of the womb. Facilities for examination of the smears are now available and the County Council have provided a service whereby the tests are taken by family doctors and are examined at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Cancer of the Lungs.

The ages at which death occurred in the last five years combined is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
1963					1	3	5	9
1964				1	-	4	6	11
1965					1	6	7	14
1966					1	1	6	8
1967					1	3	7	11
				1	4	17	31	53

Infantile Mortality.

7 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 11.76% per 1,000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18.3%.

Deaths from Heart Disease.

Of the 234 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 3 (males 48, females 34). It represented 35% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.29% per 1,000 of the population.

Other Deaths.

Road accidents accounted for 2 deaths.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		M.	F.	TOTAL.
All Causes		124	110	234
1.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	1	1
2.	Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	4	3	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	9	2	11
12.	Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	6	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	13	21
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	2	2
16.	Diabetes	-	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	13	20	33
18.	Coronary disease and angina	36	16	52
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	4	5
20.	Other heart disease	11	14	25
21.	Other circulatory disease	11	10	21
22.	Influenza	-	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	4	4	8
24.	Bronchitis	6	-	6
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	2	4
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	2	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	5	15
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34.	Suicide	2	-	2
35.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
36.	All other accidents	1	-	1

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Rural District as at June 1967 was 24,900, which shows an increase of 310 on the previous year. The natural increase in the population, that is, the excess of births over deaths, was 191.

Year	Estimated Population.	Increase	Natural Increase
1961 (Census)	21,950	1,450	151
1962	22,500	550	158
1963	23,040	540	168
1964	23,770	730	199
1965	24,200	430	204
1966	24,590	390	209
1967	24,900	310	191

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable infectious diseases which were notified in the Rural District during 1967. The table is drawn up after making the necessary amendments to the original notifications by either the practitioners or the Medical Officer at the Isolation Hospital, owing to corrections in diagnosis.

Disease	Cases Notified	
	1967	1966
Scarlet Fever	1	2
Whooping Cough	10	11
Measles	348	223
Dysentery	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	3
Tuberculosis	-	3
Erysipelas	2	-
Food Poisoning	3	-
Pneumonia	4	4
Total	370	246

Measles.

348 cases were notified. Treatment by modern drugs has done much to reduce the severity of the common complications of this highly infectious disease. Nevertheless measles consumes a considerable proportion of doctors' working time in epidemic years, and in individual cases, the after effects of complications may still be significant. It is therefore to be welcomed that an effective vaccine against the disease has been produced and a national vaccination campaign is about to be undertaken.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

No cases were notified.

Tuberculosis.

No new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year and only one death was attributed to the disease. The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.67 was 46 respiratory and 7 non-respiratory, which shows a slight reduction in the respiratory cases.

The very low incidence of deaths due to tuberculosis was maintained and reflects the efficacy of modern treatment. All new cases are thoroughly investigated and all known close contacts are invited to attend the Chest Clinic for investigation.

B. C. G. Vaccination.

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 12 and 13 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 674 accepted the offer and received a preliminary skin test, the 'Heaf Test', to determine whether they had, in fact, already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 616 of these gave negative results and 598 were vaccinated with the B.C.G. Vaccine.

Food Poisoning.

3 cases of food poisoning were notified. These affected two households at the same time but no source of infection was traced.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Tetanus Immunisation.

Tetanus immunisation is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine, and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year included:-

Water Samples	33
Ice Cream Samples	36
Prepared Foods	5

Hospitals.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Hospital	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

The South Western Regional Hospital Board have informed the Council of their change of plan for improving facilities at Bridgwater Hospital. At the time of writing the new Out-patients Department on the Broadway site is near completion. On completion of this project it is intended to improve the existing X-ray and Casualty Departments.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area, supervision being conducted by General Practitioners and Midwives. A number of expectant mothers attend at the Clinic, at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater, when blood samples are taken for determination of blood groups, Rhesus Factor etc. During 1967 751 persons attended. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 966.

Infant Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics, for which the County Council are responsible, are held at Ashcott, Cannington, Edington, Goathurst, East Huntspill, West Huntspill, Moorland, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Pawlett, Puriton, Spaxton, Westonzoyleland and Woolavington.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Admission to Hospital.

To assist the Geriatric Department at Trinity Hospital, Taunton, to determine the priority for admission of old people to hospital beds, and to provide the Geriatrician with information on the home background of hospital patients which would be useful in arranging the discharge of old people from hospital, arrangements have now been made for the Health Department to be informed of all applications for admission to hospital of old people, and a comprehensive report is sent without delay to the Geriatrician.

Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have provided a very valuable service and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 176 cases received assistance.

These included the following types:-

Post and Pre-natal	4
Maternity	9
Old age and infirmity	125
Chronic Sick	23
Tuberculosis	1
Post operation	5
Emergency illness	1
Other cases	8

The number of Home Helps at 31st December, 1967, was as follows:-

Full time	2
Part time	20

Welfare of Old People.

The Rural District Council assist the W.V.S. in providing Meals on Wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is greatly appreciated by the recipients. The scheme is at present operating in certain parts of the District, but it is hoped to extend the service whenever there is need.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

At the time of preparing this report the Council's scheme for providing a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Sutton Mallett has been completed. The schemes proposed for North Petherton and Nether Stowey have been the subject of Ministry enquiries and the need for both to proceed has been established.

Water Supplies.

Sampling of Water Supplies was continued and results generally were highly satisfactory. In those cases where results were not up to standard no special measures other than increasing chlorination were necessary.

Results of bacteriological tests generally can be summarised as follows:-

Supply	Number of Examinations.	Report.	
		Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Ashford	4	2	2
Willoughby	14	11	3
Over Stowey	12	12	-

Chemical analysis of Willoughby and Over Stowey supplies were continued as a matter of routine. Reports were as follows:-

Willoughby Water Supply.

	<u>Parts per million.</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright. Hazen Units 5.
Sediment	None.
Reaction	Very Slightly Alkaline.
pH	7.45.
Total Solids	215.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)	120.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	120.0
Non-carbonate " " "	30.0
Total Hardness " "	150.0
Chloride (as Cl)	21.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid " "	0.008
Nitrate " "	2.0
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C .	0.10
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.0
Iron	0.1
Copper, Lead and Zinc.	Nil

This is a moderately hard water, of satisfactory chemical purity.

Over Stowey Water Supply.

	<u>Parts per million.</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright Hazen Units less than 5.
Sediment	None.
Reaction	Very Slightly Alkaline.
pH	7.5
Total Solids	85.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)	45.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	
Non-carbonate " "	
Total Hardness	45.0
Chloride (as Cl)	20.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.002
Albuminoid " "	0.004
Nitrate " "	Trace
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C .	0.10
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.0
Iron	Trace
Copper, Lead and Zinc.	Nil.

This is a soft water of satisfactory chemical purity.

Housing.

The number of post-war houses built in the Rural District up to 31st December, 1967, was as follows:-

(a) Erected by Local Authority	1,214
(b) Erected by Private Enterprise	2,466

During 1967 the Local Authority erected 39 houses and private building firms 220. These compare with 112 and 192 respectively in the previous year.

At the end of the year there were approximately 453 applications for Council houses as compared with 480 in the previous year.

During the year the Council completed the redevelopment of the Woolavington Housing Estate and it was most satisfactory to see the end of the temporary prefabricated buildings which had deteriorated into such a dilapidated state.

Wardens Schemes for old people are now operating most successfully in the following villages: West Huntspill 15 (units) North Petherton 9, Woolavington 24, Nether Stowey 11, Puriton 8, Ashcott 8, and Cannington 26.

A further scheme of 10 units has been opened at North Petherton and a Warden for this scheme has now been appointed.

Improvement Grants.

Owners of many properties have been informed of the benefits of these grants and have been urged to bring their properties up to modern standards.

The following table summarises the action taken.

Discretionary Grants.

Received		Approved	
Applications	No. of Dwellings.	Applications	No. of Dwellings
11	12	11	12

Standard Grants.

Received	Approved
23	23

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The records given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report show the number of insanitary conditions dealt with.

FOR 1967

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my twenty-eighth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1967.

STAFF.

The staff of the Department consists of Chief Public Health Inspector, two Additional Public Health Inspectors and female clerk-typist.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

The number of complaints investigated during the year was 137, an increase of 28 on the previous year. In most cases nuisances were abated as result of informal action and it was only found necessary to serve 3 Statutory Notices. On inspection a number of complaints were found to be not justified and no further action was taken in regard to them.

Of the nuisances found, 76 were abated during the year. the number of visits made in connection with nuisances was 386.

The calf-rearing unit in the centre of the built-up area of the village of Westonzoyland has continued in operation throughout the year and complaints of unpleasant smells have been received on numerous occasions. In addition to the nuisance arising from these premises the strength of sewage from the unit is such that it is very difficult to obtain a reasonably satisfactory effluent from the village sewage disposal works. Legal action to secure abatement of the nuisance or closure of the premises is pending.

The completion of the joint sewerage scheme for the villages of Woolavington, Cossington and East Huntspill has brought about the elimination of serious drainage nuisances which had existed in each of these villages for many years. An extension of the original scheme by providing sewers to serve the Basonbridge area of the parish of East Huntspill has now been completed, and a sewerage system for the hamlet of Sutton Mallet in the parish of Stawell was also completed during the year.

Most of the premises on the line of the sewers were connected as soon as the sewers were available, but where this was not done steps were taken to induce the owners concerned to connect their premises to the new sewers as early as possible.

The roadside toilet block at the Beggars Brook lay-by near the village of North Petherton has again been extensively used throughout the year. The lay-by has become a popular place to pull off the trunk road for picnic meals, and demands on the toilets are particularly heavy during week-ends in the summer months.

A new lay-by on the opposite side of the road has been constructed and a second toilet block provided but this had not been brought into operation at the end of the year.

Heavy rainfall was experienced in February and also in November and this resulted in the receipt of numerous complaints of flooding and of leaking roofs and damp walls and floors. Septic tank drainage was also affected where the subsoil was unable to absorb the effluent.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination are taken at monthly intervals from the three sources of supply serving most of the District and are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton for examination.

A total of 36 visits was made in connection with water supply during the year.

HOUSING.

The total number of visits under the Housing Acts was 726, the number of separate houses inspected being 312.

As in previous years a considerable number of informal notices were sent to owners, and these were followed up where necessary with re-inspections and negotiations with property owners and their agents or builders to consider details of the required repairs.

The proposed trunk road improvement scheme in the central area of the village of North Petherton which was scheduled to commence in the Autumn of 1967 was unfortunately postponed, although the remaining tenants of the occupied houses affected by the scheme had been rehoused by the Council. Many of the houses concerned had been vacant for a number of years, and are now in a most untidy and dilapidated condition. These houses are directly facing the main road through the village, and their present appearance is most depressing. It is hoped that the demolition of these houses and the carrying out of the road improvement scheme will be commenced in the Spring of 1968.

There were fewer applications for Discretionary Grants but the number of applications for Standard Grants was higher than in the previous year. In all appropriate cases maintenance repairs were carried out at the same time as the grant-aided work.

During the year 74 houses were repaired and improved as a result of the service of informal notices.

15 houses and 5 flats were represented as unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost and 6 Demolition Orders and 2 Closing Orders were made by the Council. In 1 case, the Council agreed to accept an undertaking to carry out works within a stipulated time. 6 houses subject to Demolition Orders were demolished during the year.

6 families were transferred during the year from condemned houses into Council houses.

15 visits were made during the year to 5 properties in regard to the reconditioning and alteration of existing houses and the installation of new sanitary fittings.

11 visits were made to houses in respect to which grants had been made under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts.

65 visits were made in connection with Improvement Grants.

OVERCROWDING.

There were no new cases of overcrowding but 5 visits were made to investigate suspected or alleged overcrowding.

FACTORIES ACTS.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part 1 of the Factories Act, 1957:-

	Number on Register	Insp	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	65	79	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	65	79	-	-

The 79 visits were made in respect to 65 factories.

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage to floor (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient		1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL	3	3			

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES.

112 visits were made to Offices, Shops and Railway Premises and all the 83 registered premises received a general inspection during the year. Seven registrations were cancelled by reason of changed circumstances and one new premise was registered.

The number of employees was 226 comprising 77 males and 149 females.

Staircases etc. New handrails have been provided to staircases at two premises and informal action has resulted in seven minor deficiencies being rectified.

First-aid Facilities. Many employers provide equipment in quantities falling short of the legal minimum. This is especially evident in butchers shops and in premises where dangerous machinery is used.

Accidents. Again no accidents were reported during the year, but in the course of inspection, employers were reminded of their responsibilities to report accidents to the local authority.

BAKEHOUSES.

One bakehouse was taken out of use during the year.

21 visits were made to the 7 bakehouses remaining in the District and where defects or unsatisfactory conditions were found, informal notices were served.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The following sanitary fittings were renewed or provided generally as a result of informal action:-

W.C's	9
Sinks	1
Lavatory basins	3

A number of other minor improvements were also carried out.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Considerable attention has again been given to the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, 425 inspections having been made of the 319 premises and mobile shops in the District to which the Regulations apply. In all but a few premises the standard of hygiene maintained is very good, but in these few cases frequent and regular visits are necessary in order to impress on persons responsible and their employees the need for constant care and vigilance in the hygienic preparation and handling of food.

Where contraventions of the Regulations were found, informal action was taken which resulted in 64 deficiencies being remedied, most of which were of a minor nature. In addition, the following improvements in facilities and equipment were installed:-

Refrigerators & Deep freeze Cabinets.	7
Floors relaid	5
Premises modernised or improved	5

FOOD HYGIENE (continued)

The number and types of food premises in the District are as follows:-

	Fitted to comply with Regulation 16.	Regulation 19 applies.	Fitted to comply with Regulation 19.
101 Food Shops	101	96	96
69 Licenced Houses & clubs	69	69	69
64 Food Preparing premises	59	64	64
41 Schools	16	41	41
17 Butchers	17	17	17
17 Cafes	17	17	17
7 Bakehouses	7	7	7
2 Poultry & Rabbit Packers	2	2	2
1 Fish & Chip Shop	1	1	1

N.B. Regulation 16 requires the provision of a wash-hand basin and Regulation 19 requires the provision of sink and other facilities for washing food and equipment.

FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS & DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 1966

The regulations became operative on 1st January, 1967, and 41 inspections of mobile food vehicles were made during the year. Those vehicles seen included mobile grocery shops, and vehicles selling meat, ice cream and fried fish and chips.

The most common deficiencies were:

- (a) lack of and inadequate first-aid equipment and
- (b) lack of and inadequate proper washing facilities, in those vehicles requiring them.

It was found that there was a long delay in the delivery of new wash-hand units.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL KITCHENS.

40 inspections were made of schools and school kitchens and it was notable that facilities had been improved in eight of these, including:-

- (a) a new classroom and self contained kitchen.
- (b) sanitary accommodation rebuilt and additional wash-hand basins provided.
- (c) hot water provided to wash-hand basins in cloakrooms.

LICENCED PREMISES.

74 inspections of licensed premises were carried out, and a number of improvements were brought about by informal action.

One licensed house was closed during the year.

MEAT AND FOODS.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the District, four of which are used exclusively for the wholesale trade, and the other is used for both wholesale and retail purposes. The slaughterhouse at Puriton has not been in use since March.

Most of the meat produced at the wholesale slaughterhouses is sent to the London wholesale markets, but a comparatively small amount goes to local retail butchers.

The number of animals slaughtered decreased by 35% of the previous years total.

857 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat and 13,378 carcasses were inspected, a decrease of 7,223 on the previous year, and giving an average of 16 animals per visit. The numbers of the different kinds of animals inspected were as follows:-

Beasts	1,120
Cows	84
Calves	7,789
Sheep	3,071
pigs	1,314

Approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons of meat were condemned during the year, details of which are as follows:-

Beasts.

Carcasses and organs	4
Heads and tongues	6
Livers	170
Lungs	11
Hearts	1
Spleen	1
Diaphragms	4
Beef	376 lbs.

Cows.

Carcasses and organs	4
Head and tongue	1
Livers	42
Lungs	15
Kidneys	2
Hearts	3
Spleen	1
Beef	473 lbs.

Calves.

Carcasses and organs	87
Livers	16
Kidneys	22
Plucks	7
Lungs	44
Hearts	7
Veal	117 lbs.

Sheep.

Carcasses and organs	7
Livers	154
Lungs	14
Plucks	2
Hearts	2
Mutton	110 lbs.

MEAT AND FOODS (continued)

Pigs.

Carcases and organs	18
Heads and tongue	8
Livers	26
Kidneys	5
Lungs	118
Plucks	21
Hearts	19
Lungs, heart and diaphragm	14
Diaphragms	2
Pork	95 lbs.

Other Foods.

37 tins -- Various foods.
136 cases -- Various frozen foods.

MEAT AND FOODS (continued)

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part during the year:-

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number inspected	1,120	84	7,789	3,071	1,314	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u> - whole carcases condemned	4	4	87	7	18	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	204	70	104	176	217	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	18.57	88.09	2.45	5.96	17.88	-
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u> Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	7	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.53	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and total condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Condemned meat is normally disposed of to manufacturers of animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers where it is processed and sterilised by steam under pressure.

PRESERVED FOODS.

There are 16 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled and preserved foods.

Five samples of prepared foods were obtained, all of which were reported as containing no pathological organisms.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of retail purveyors of milk on the register is 9 and 10 visits were made for the inspection of dairies during the year. There are also 3 dairies manufacturing milk products on a large scale.

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream at the end of the year was 109, and three premises were also registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

36 samples were taken during the year, 33 of which were placed in Provisional Grade 1 and 3 in Provisional Grade 2.

A total of 141 visits were made in connection with the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

POULTRY PACKING STATION.

The poultry packing station at Nether Stowey is being operated satisfactorily and 17 visits were made to it during the year. This is the only such establishment in the District. The number of birds processed was 1,298,618; most of these were broilers, but a few capons were also dealt with.

Approximately 0.4% of birds (approximately 5,300) were rejected as unfit for human consumption, the weight of poultry condemned being about 8 tons.

The capacity of the factory has been considerably increased by the construction of a large additional refrigerated store to hold the processed poultry before dispatch.

The preparation of such large numbers of poultry involves the use of a considerable amount of water with a corresponding increase in the quantity of effluent to be dealt with. The present drainage arrangements of the premises are totally inadequate to deal efficiently with the volume and strength of sewage produced.

WASTE FOOD BOILING PLANTS.

There are now two licensed waste food boiling plants in the District, to which five visits were made during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

228 visits were made during the year in connection with moveable dwellings.

There are 21 caravan and camping sites in the District, all of which are small. In addition there are 38 caravans on individual sites.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS (continued)

As in previous years complaints were received in regard to the objectionable habits of gypsies occupying camping sites whilst working for produce merchants in the harvesting of peas and root crops.

The occupiers of the land on which the camps are situated do not exercise sufficient control, with the result that the sanitary accommodation is fouled and fittings removed or damaged. In addition, the gypsies are undoubtedly responsible for the fouling of adjoining land, and the consequent risk to public health.

For a considerable time the Council have been endeavouring to find a suitable site for a permanent gypsy camp, and there have been a number of consultations with other authorities on the matter. This problem is an extremely difficult one, but the Council will continue its efforts to find a solution.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS AND PET SHOPS.

Eight licenses have been issued to the proprietors of Animal Boarding Establishments and there is one licensed Pet Shop, the license being restricted to the sale of cage birds, goldfish and tropical fish.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

21 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases and one disinfection was carried out.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Water Supply	36
Drainage	104
New Work	15
Nuisances	386
Refuse Disposal	32
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises	112
Factories	79
Schools	42
Housing (Slum Clearance)	137
Housing Repairs	578
Improvement Grants	65
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act	11
Overcrowding	5
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	11
Moveable Dwellings	228
Infectious Diseases	21
Rodent Infestation	32
Other Pest Control	52
Meat & Food Inspection	869
Food Shops	150
Mobile Shops	41
Bakehouses	21
School Kitchens	42
Other Food Preparing Premises	97
Licensed Premises & Clubs	74
Dairies	10
Ice Cream	141
Miscellaneous Food Visits	12
Ice Cream Sample Visits	37
Poultry & Rabbit Packers	23
Slaughterhouses	19
Knacker Yard	6
Waste Food Boiling Plants	5
Animal Boarding Establishments	21
Miscellaneous	69
Hairdressers	10
Public Sanitary Accommodation	107
Fire Precautions	15

3,715

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I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F. A. MAILE

Chief Public Health Inspector



